

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

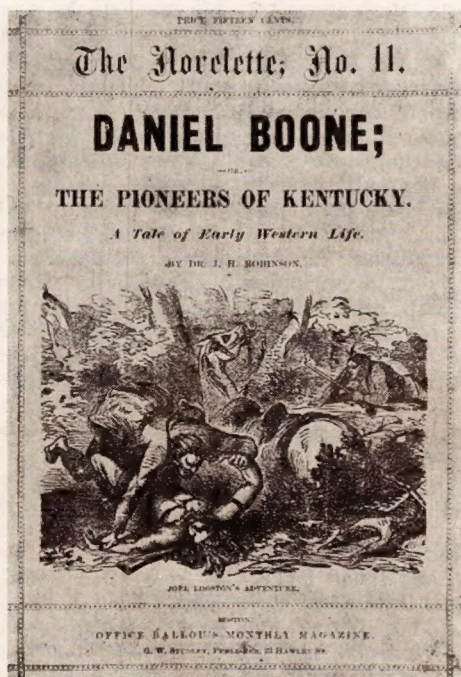
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Exasperations Of A Book Collector

By Jack R. Schorr



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 121

THE NOVELETTE

Publisher: George W. Studley, 23 Hawley St., Boston, Mass. Dates: 1885-1886. Schedule of Issue: Believed to be monthly. Issues: 17 (highest number seen advertised). Price: 15c. Size: 9½x6½". Pages: 78. Illustrations: Black and white cover illustration and 4 inside illustrations. Contents: reprints of novels published in the 1860's by Elliott, Thomas & Talbot of Boston. Authors include Sylvanus Cobb, Lieut. Murray, Dr. J. H. Robinson, Ned Buntline and Charles Averill.

Exasperations Of A Book Collector

By Jack R. Schorr

How often has the book collector come across what seemed to him to be a "find"? Here was a copy of "Rival Campers Ashore." "I am sure I don't have that. That would complete my set. No, I don't recognize the illustration. Well, I am going to take it." And when he gets home, he finds he didn't need "Rival Campers Ashore," but "Rival Campers Afloat." And on top of that, the copy of "Rival Campers Ashore" that he already has is better than the one he just picked up. Oh, well, one more for the duplicate pile. Next time, I'll take my list along.

More often than not, in answer to an "ad," a book advertised as being in "very good condition" arrives, and it's one you have wanted for a long time. You open the package with bated breath, and lo, it's only in fair shape, which means that later you have to lay out money again for a better copy, and in selling the one you bought, you have to apologize for its condition. This will happen particularly with antique dealers, whose main interest is antiques, and books are a nuisance which they have to take with the furniture.

I usually feel "at home" in dealing by mail with someone whom I know, and whose judgment of "very good," "fine," or "fair" measures up to my appraisement.

I ran into a situation where I came across a rare book, one I had looked long for; after I got it home, I discovered pages 23 to 26 missing. Of course, that would have to happen to "The Young Bridge Tender," by Winfield. And the six Tom Slade books, which I also bought at the

same time, had every page intact, and if they didn't, I could easily get another copy.

Then you come across a response to your ad, in which you advertised for several books you wanted, and among them was one you really wanted. Here was a guy that had that one. So you sent the letter and check and waited and waited. Oh, happy day! The package comes four weeks later. From the looks of the package, you are not sure if it's a package of books or some tennis shoes wrapped up. Yes, the books are there, a little worse for wear, but where is the one you really wanted? It's missing! You dash a letter off to the gentleman 1200 miles away, and before you get back from the Post Office there is a letter and a partial refund, with an apology, saying, "I have misplaced 'Victor Vane' by Alger. I am sorry." Of course, he changed his mind, or got a better offer.

How many times have you gone into a book shop and found copies of books you already have on the shelves, or ones on both sides of the missing one in the shelves? Many times, I know. It is interesting to note that once you find a book you are looking for, it's not long after before you come across another.

I remember a while back, Fob Chenu mailed me about three books, one of which I particularly wanted. It was "Don Sturdy Lost in Glacier Bay." He put the three books in a book mailing envelope and stapled it. Two of the books came through. The staples had pulled out and the one missing was the Don Sturdy book. Bob, in his ready wit and good

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sense of humor, said, "Well, Don Sturdy wasn't lost in Glacier Bay, but was 'Lost at the Post Office'."

I really got a kick out of that. I guess that's what makes collecting interesting. If a guy could walk across the street and find every book he needed, it wouldn't be any fun. Just like Life. If we got everything we wanted, with no effort, it would be a bore. But heck, I hope I come across "Boy Scouts Under the Kaiser" before I am pushing up the daisies.

DIME NOVEL "DAZE"

By Gerald J. McIntosh

Recently I read an interesting story in a present day popular though not greatly circulated magazine, in which the writer was reminiscing of the days of his boyhood just after the turn of the century. He told of the trials, tribulations and the joys of his youth. It seems he had been a reader of the colored cover nickel novels of the period and Buffalo Bill was his chief hero. One of the great "tragedies" of his young life was the time he loaned a "stack" of about fifty Buffalo Bills to a neighboring chum and lo, and behold, before the chum had finished them and could return them the home of this chum burned. The family lost everything, and all of the copies of Buffalo William went up in smoke and were lost forever. Well, I can imagine his grief as Buffalo Bill Cody was one of my first great heroes.

In another issue of the magazine mentioned above, I later saw a very amusing cartoon of a bare-footed, overalled, straw-hatted youth of probably early teen-age, making a streak for the apparently rural customary old-time familiar two-seated "back-house," privy or old time toilet, with the door sagging, etc. In his hand was a copy of the newest Buffalo Bill, and I mean, he was hurrying. Looking over the top of a nearby fence, head raised, was an old "plug" of a horse, evidently wondering why the youth was making such haste.

And the length of his stride told very well that the boy was in an awful hurry. Maybe some of us have "been there" long ago, and in my own case, I can say positively it is so.

Continuing, still, I read an interesting true historical article in yet another and different magazine. A very entertaining story of Gen. Geo. Rogers Clark, of how he and his small and poorly outfitted Army conquered the old Northwest Territory in the early days of our Republic. The writer sure knew his history and truth, they say, is sometimes stranger than fiction, and he sure knew how to relate it. In the body of this story the author digressed some to state that in his youth he had been an avid reader of the colored cover and black-and-white nickel and dime novels of his youth which was just after the turn of the century. He also underwent a great personal "tragedy" in his boyhood. In which his parents moved from the locality in which they lived to another area several miles distant. He was forced to leave out in their barn loft a "stack" of nickel and dime novels, "that was as high as his head." But fellows, don't let your hopes get raised up too high. This was down in Texas, many, many years ago. And I dare say that the spot on which this barn stood in those days is probably now the site of an oil well, gushing or at least, pumping the wealth of "black gold" and further enriching some Texas "trillionaire", a cattle or oil tycoon. If this barn has by some chance withstood the ravages and vicissitudes of the times all the 65 or 70 years, well, the Indian war-whoops, the rattle and roaring of pistols and guns, the spitting of bullets, the taking of scalps, the massacres of emigrants, and the moans and groans of the wounded and dying have no doubt long ago been silenced by the rapid disintegration and maybe total obliteration of those precious nickels and dimes to the extent that there may remain only tattered fragments, and maybe a mass of rusted staples that bound the stories, scattered far and wide on the floor. But such is the life and death

of nickel and dime novels. Not many remain.

"Oh, the color-covered novels of Youth Which we read ere we became Men Brought joy to our hearts, but they're gone,

And we won't see their like again."

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Ed:

I have an idea that I am just about the oldest dime novel reader in the Brotherhood. I was 87 last August. I've been collecting dime novels since 1915 and succeeded long since in getting copies of every novel that I remember reading when a boy except a very few. You can imagine, I'm sure, what it would mean to me to find those few elusive novels, or even one of them—Old Cap Collier's (the 5c edition with the picture), 242, 269, 296, 328. Diamond Dick Library, No. 146, or New York 5c Library No. 146 or Nugget Library No. 149, Log Cabin Library No. 79 and Brave and Bold Nos. 39, 54, 57, 60, 63, 68. George French, Orchard Drive, Towaco, New Jersey 07082.

Dear Ed:

Enclosed find my subscription for another year of your splendid "Dime Novel Roundup." I can't express the enjoyment this little paper gives me each month. In addition I have met and corresponded with so many interesting and friendly collectors. Keep up the fine service you are supplying collectors of dime novels.—Stanley T. Butcher, Andover, Mass.

Dear Ed:

The ad I ran in the Roundup turned out better than I had expected for I picked up 7 of the 14 titles I was seeking in the Merriwell Series. I still need the following: No. 108, 120, 128, 135, 153, 142, and 157. I would also like to replace No. 57 as my copy is in rather fragile condition.—R. B. Hudson, P. O. Box 378, Dallas, Georgia 30132.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES CONCERNING DIME NOVELS

YANKEE MAGAZINE, February, 1970. An article by Curtis Norris a-

bout dime novels, excellently illustrated. (Information sent in by Frank C. Acker.)

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, December 26, 1969. IMMEMORIAL MAKEBELIEVE, by Richard L. Strout. An excellent nostalgic article about the Merriwells. (Frank C. Acker.)

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222. Frederick S. Cook, 1722 Maunto Lane, Jackson, Mich. 49201
223. Mrs. Gloria D. Terrio, Rock Pon Road, Windham, N. H. 03087
224. Richard S. Sprague, 235 Stevens Hall, Univ. of Maine, Orono, Me. 04473
225. Miss Rhoda Walgren, 1302 Birch Bldg., Apt. 3, Marshall, Minn. 56258
226. Kansas State College, Porter Library, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762
227. Arthur M. McFadden, 3378 Stephenson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20015
228. E. Clayton Toewe, 284 Itawamba Trail, Rt. 2, Lake Choctaw, London, Ohio 43140
229. San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, San Francisco, Cal. 94102
230. Robert W. Story, 34 Aberdeen Crescent, Bramalea, via Brampton, Ont., Canada
231. William Reinecke, 212 W. Adams St., Villa Park, Ill. 60181
232. Stanley E. Butcher, 4 Washington Ave., Andover, Mass. 01810
233. Fred Reign, 35 E. Henrietta St., Baltimore, Md. 21230
234. Rev. Theodore M. Blanchard, Box 16, Easton, Maine 04740
235. Maurice E. Owen, 4 Rock St., Norwich, Conn. 06360
236. Ted Dikty, 1105 Edgewater Drive, Naperville, Ill. 60540
237. Mrs. Lianne Carlin, P. O. Box 113, Melrose, Mass. 02176
238. Paul T. Jung, 256B Holly Court, Woodbury Heights, N. J. 08097
239. Bodleian Library, Dept. of Printer Books, Oxford, England
240. Floyd I. Bailey, P. O. Box 17561, Ft. Worth, Texas 76102
241. Mohawk Valley Community College, 1101 Sherman Dr., Utica, N.Y. 13501
242. C. L. Messecar, Box 23128, Tigard, Oregon 97223
243. Walter Gosden, 197 Mayfair Ave., Floral Park, N. Y. 11001
244. G. T. Tanselle, 410 W. Washington St., Lebanon, Ind. 46052
245. Stuart, A. Teitler, P. O. Box 15564, Lakewood, Colo. 80215
246. Aimee B. MacEwen, Victorian House, Stockton Springs, Maine 04981
247. Ned Hall, 16 Old Road West, Gravesend, Kent, England
248. Madelyn W. Stenberg, 12 Florence St., Attleboro, Mass. 02703
249. William H. Beadle, 900 Palmer Road, Bronxville, N. Y. 10708

250. New York Historical Society Library, 170 Central Park West, New York, N. Y. 10024
251. Carl H. Anderson, The Home Life Insurance Co., Independence Square, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106
252. Tom Dino, 511 19th St., Union City, N. J. 07087
253. Robert L. Johnson, Box 1732, Bisbee, Arizona 85603
254. Robert H. Boyle, Finney Farm, Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y. 10520
255. Boston Public Library, P. O. Box 286, Boston, Mass. 02117
256. Akron Public Library, 55 So. Main St., Akron, Ohio 44308
257. William C. Kennedy, 119 60th St., West New York, N. J. 07093
258. Les Beitz, 2407 Audubon Place, Austin, Texas 78741
259. E. W. Cason, 3657 Greenwich Road, Barberton, Ohio 44203
260. Kenneth Magenau, 4226 Point Comfort Drive, Akron, Ohio 44319
261. Russell Hughes, 2455 Russell St., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221
262. J. E. Comshaw, Sr., 685 Reed Ave., Akron, Ohio 44306
263. Mary E. Bond, 235 Russell Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44311
264. John F. Matt, 614 N. Willow St., Kent, Ohio 44240
265. Edward Schriver, 290 West Broadway, Bangor, Maine 04401
266. Serials, Library, Univ. of Calif., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93106
267. University of Toronto, School of Library Science, 167 College Street, Toronto 2B, Ont., Canada
268. Michael Campbell, 1182 Humboldt Ave., Chico, Calif. 95926
269. Robert P. Burns, 1436 Beach Ave., Bronx, N. Y. 10460
270. William M. Smith, 1550 Manchester Road, Akron, Ohio 44314
271. George Hart, 140 Ritner St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19148
272. Brian W. Dippie, 1100 Post Oak #205, Austin, Texas 78704
273. O. B. Holder, 541 23rd St. N. W., Massillon, Ohio 44646
274. Alton R. Cogert, Race Brook Road & Rinon, Woodbridge, Conn. 06525
275. Mrs. Edna J. Stone, 5 Leggs Hill Road, Marblehead, Mass. 01945
276. Capt. Everard P. Digges La Touche, CMR-3, Box 5661, APO San Francisco, Calif. 96553
277. Clarence M. Fink, 296 Ohio St., Pasadena, Calif. 91106
278. John M. Lohn, 709 S. Lorraine Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90005
279. Max T. Lanctot, 159 Park St., Burlington, Vt. 05401
280. Paul G. Brewster, Box 147A T. T. U., Cookeville, Tenn. 38501
281. Princeton University Library, Serials Division, Princeton, N. J. 08540
282. Paul L. Webb, 1631 West Mulberry Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85015
283. D. Adamovich, 81 Waring Place, Yonkers, N. Y. 10703
284. Harry Mitchell, 1916 Dayton Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55104
285. James M. Burnside, 429B Vandenberg Drive, Duluth, Minn. 55811
286. D. R. Beck, 260 Warren Ave., Eden, N. C. 27288
287. Donald J. Osterhout, 483A East Lake Road, Rushville, N. Y. 14544
288. Hyman Edelman, 350 Cabrini Blvd., New York, N. Y. 10040
289. Morris Olsen, 44 Hillsboro Road, Mattapan, Mass. 02126
290. Morton Langthorne, Jr., 19 Woodland Road, Cochrane, Mass. 01778
291. Mrs. Margaret T. Davis, 107 West Pennview St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15223
292. Joseph W. Curran, 4889 Pineview Drive, Vermilion, Ohio 44089
293. East Carolina University Library, Periodicals Dept., Greenville, N. C. 27834
294. University of New York Albany, Univ. Library, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, N. Y.
295. John Lee Sims, 6708½ Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90038
296. Henry Hurley, Westmoreland, N. H. 03467
297. Mrs. Irene Gurman, 23498 Parklawn, Oak Park, Michigan 48237

298. Roger A. Merriam, Eastman Road, RD 1, North Syracuse, N. Y. 13212
 299. Mrs. Roy E. Morris, 901 East Michigan Ave., Orlando, Fla. 32806
 300. William B. Shillingberg, 213 East Bell Ave., Fairfield, Calif. 94533
 301. William J. Moore, 1323 Seminole Drive, Greensboro, N. C. 27408
 302. Library—Serials, Michigan State Univ., East Lansing, Mich. 48823
 303. Mrs. M. Bertrand Couch, P. O. Box 445, San Anselmo, Calif. 94960

There was a net increase of 24 members during 1969. This is very gratifying and indicates an increased interest in dime novels and boys books. Collecting these items is apparently becoming fashionable. Four members died during the year: William M. Claggett, M. Bertrand Couch, Albert D. Stone and Roy E. Morris. They will be missed. 17 dropped for lack of interest or other reasons: University of California Department of Special Collections (combined its membership with another library within the University), Ralph Adimari, University of Missouri Library, Roger Butterfield, Kenneth B. Butler, Forrest Cambell, Detroit Public Library, F. Lisle McCormick, Kenneth W. Scott, Maine Historical Society, Dwight E. Smith, E. H. Hammond, Robert Herschel, Bernard Padden, John G. Sullivan, Max Goldberg, and John E. Johnson. 45 new members were enrolled beginning with No. 259 above.

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80. Rev. Doald L. Steinhauer, 824 E. Second St., Nescopeck, Pa. 18635
 (Change of address)
 300. William B. Shillingberg, 213 East Bell Ave., Fairfield, Calif. 94533
 (New member)
 301. William J. Moore, 1323 Seminole Drive, Greensboro, N. C. 27408
 (New member)
 212. John T. Dizer, Jr., 10332 Ridgecrest Road, Utica, New York 13502
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